

Amendments to the Specification

Page 10, line 16 – Page 11, line 4, replace the paragraph with the following:

In a preferred embodiment, the microorganism is of the genus *Propionibacterium* and more preferably *P. acidipropionici* and *P. jensenii*. Preferred strains of bacteria include *P. acidipropionici* and *jensenii* strains P169, P170, P179, P195, and P261, especially strain, P169. The P169 and P170 strains are available from the microorganism collection of the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, VA. 20110, under accession numbers ATCC PTA-5271 and ATCC PTA-5272, respectively. All of the preferred strains were found to have group 1 genomic profiles (as defined below). Therefore, other strains of *P. acidipropionici* or *P. jensenii* that have a group 1 genomic profile and which have a common identifying characteristic of successful performance in the present invention are also preferred strains. These other strains are referred to hereinafter as “genetic equivalents.”

Page 23, line 5 – Page 24, line 5, please replace Table 3 with the following:

Table 3. Analysis of propionibacteria isolates.				
Plasmid Content				
Isolate Number	Species Identification	Number of Plasmids	MW (kb)	Genomic digestion profile group
162	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		1
166	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		1
169	<i>P. [acidipropionici]</i> <i>acidipropionici</i>	0		1
170	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		1
173	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		1
176	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		1
178	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		1
179	<i>P. jensenii</i>	0		1
180	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		1
182	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	ND		1
188	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		1
195	<i>P. jensenii</i>	1	7.0	2
233	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		3
236	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	1	2.7	4
238	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	1	2.7	1
245	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	1	2.7	1
246	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	1	2.7	1
248	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	1	2.7	1
249	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	1	2.7	1
261	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	1	2.7	1
266	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		3
272	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	1	2.7	1
277	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		3
279	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	1	2.7	1
345	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		6
346	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		10
347	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		10
348	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		6
349	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		6
350	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		5
351	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		6

352	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		6
354	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		5
362	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		U
365	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		U
377	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		U
381	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		U
388	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		U
393	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		5
395	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		U
400	<i>P. acidipropionici</i>	0		U

ND = Not determined

U = Unique genomic profile

Page 30, lines 18-22, replace the paragraph with the following:

[Glucose and Insulin] Glucose and Insulin: Plasma concentrations of insulin were determined by using solid-phase insulin RIA kit (Micromedic Insulin Kit, ICN Biomedicals, Costa Mesa, CA) except that bovine insulin was used as a reference standard (25.7 IU/mg) as previously described (Simpson et al., 1994). Intraassay and interassay coefficients of variation were 12.8 % and 7.8 %, respectively.